Message Text

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ACTION PC-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03

A-01 M-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 /084 W

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R 101515Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8389

CONFIDENTIAL PORT AU PRINCE 1546

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EAID, HA

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN HAITI - STATUS REPORT

- 1. IN COURSE OF AUGUST 9 CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT DUVALIER I NOTED IMPASSE OVER PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF MODEST PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN FY 75 AND ASKED WHETHER WE SHOULD NOT MUTUALLY DECIDE TO DEFER MATTER UNTIL NEXT FY SINCE GOH APPEARED RELUCTANT TO REACH FIRM DECISION.
- 2. PRESIDENT ASKED IF WE COULD NOT PROPOSE A PLAN. I REPLIED THAT ESSENCE OF PC PROGRAM WAS MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON PROJECTS FOR VOLUNTEERS THAT SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENTAL PRIORITIES OF GOVT. AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH WERE SECTORS IN WHICH VOLUNTEERS WERE PREPARED TO WORK ALONGSIDE HAITIANS.
- 3. I ASKED WHETHER, IN INTERESTS OF CLARIFYING ISSUE AND DEVELOPING A PLAN, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PC OFFICIAL COME FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOH OFFICIALS. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME SUCH A VISIT.
- 4. COMMENT: GOH HAS CLEARLY HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT PC VOLUNTEERS SINCE INITIAL POSITIVE RESPONSE TO HIRSCH VISIT IN FALL OF 1973. RECEPTIVITY TO IDEA EXPRESSED BY PRESIDENT TO SENATOR BROOKE IN APRIL HAS YET TO BE TRANSLATED INTO DECISION. I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE IN POSITION OF PRESSURING GOH TO START PC PROGRAM HERE; IF THEY ARE NOT AFFIRMATIVELY ON BOARD, CONFIDENTIAL

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BETTER NOT TO ATTEMPT PROGRAM AT ALL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: NEVERTHELESS, IN INTEREST
OF ASCERTAINING REASONS FOR EVIDENT GOH RELUCTANCE AND
ASSESSING FEASIBILITY OF HAVING PC VOLUNTEERS WORK ON
AGRICULTURAL AND HEALTH PROJECTS HERE, I SUGGEST PC SEND
APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL TO REVIEW THE BIDDING BEFORE FY 75
FUNDS NOW ALLOCATED TO PROJECTED HAITI PC PROGRAM ARE
REALLOCATED ELSEWHERE.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

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Subject: PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN HAITI - STATUS REPORT

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